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Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Announces Environmental Assessment and Public Meeting for Wildlife Drive Impoundment System

Oceanville, NJ – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge has announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for public review and comment regarding a proposed project on the Headquarters Impoundment System, also known as Wildlife Drive, in Oceanville, Galloway Township.

The Impoundment System (System) was constructed in the early 1950s to meet the habitat needs of migratory birds (e.g., waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds). The approximately 1,500-acre system consists primarily of Lily Lake, Doughty Creek, and several pools. The exterior impoundment dike, known as Wildlife Drive, is open to the public and receives over 100,000 visitors annually. Hurricane Sandy significantly impacted the dike system and required emergency repairs to maintain its integrity. The Refuge plans to conduct a number of projects along the impoundments to ensure the continued resiliency of the System. Construction tasks will include:

- Stabilization of approximately 1500ft of the Turtle Cove section of South Dike.
- Stabilization of approximately 600ft of the Dog Leg section of North Dike.
- Repair of approximately 2,000ft of breached or eroded portions of Long Dike.
- Repair or replacement of the northeast corner water control structure.
- Resurface of six miles of Wildlife Drive.

A public meeting will be held at 7pm on 2/18/16 in the Refuge Headquarters at 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ. The Environmental Assessment will be presented and will be followed by a question and answer period.

The Environmental Assessment for the project is available for review at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge website, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/, and at the refuge's Visitor Information Center located at 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ. Written comments should be submitted to Marc Virgilio, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, Oceanville, NJ 08231 or via email to forsythe@fws.gov. The public comment period for the EA will close on 03/10/16.

For more information, contact the refuge at (609) 652-1665 or visit http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/.

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